

II. REMARKS

A. Introduction

In this Office Action, claims 1 and 5-11 are noted as pending and are rejected.

In summary of this Response, claims 5, 6 and 11 are canceled, claims 1, 8 and 9 are amended, new claims 15-23 are added, and remarks are provided.

B. Allowance of Claim 7 and Indication of Allowability of Claims 5 and 6

The indication of allowance of claim 7 is acknowledged.

The subject matter of claim 5 has been added to independent claim 1 to form new independent claim 15 and the subject matter of claim 6 has been added as new claim 16, depending from new claim 15, which new claims should now be in allowable condition. Claims 5 and 6 are otherwise canceled.

C. Objection to Claim 1

The Examiner's careful reading of claim 1 is appreciated. The misspelled word "accurately" has been corrected to the intended "arcuately".

D. Rejection of Claims 9-11 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

These claims are rejected as being anticipated by the Love reference, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0018049.

As noted above, claim 11 has been canceled. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as recited by claims 9-10, was neither anticipated nor made obvious by Love.

Independent claim 9 has been amended herein to recite the embodiment wherein the connector part that serves to electrically and mechanically support, in a rotatable manner, the operating part and the detecting part relative to the data

processor, also serves as the exclusive support for the pointing device, on the data processor. This feature is supported by the original specification, e.g., on page 19, lines 26-37, page 20, line 1, and Fig. 11A.

Love's joystick unit housing 10, in the rotatable embodiment (Fig. 1C) requires hooks or fingers 40 to engage the top side of the data processor 15, when a user attaches the unit 10 to the data processor. These hooks or fingers constitute an additional support for the joystick, beyond the connector part 13 (See para. 26, lines 13-17, para 27, lines 1-14, para. 28, lines 1-3). Thus, the connector part 13 of Love's joystick is clearly not the exclusive support for the joystick, as recited in claim 9.

Also, Love does not suggest to one of ordinary skill the use of only a rotatable connector. That is, if the fingers 40 are not used, Love teaches one of ordinary skill to still use a notch 41 and a hook on the notebook computer. Para. 28. Further, it appears the rotator 39 is merely to facilitate connecting the USB connection 13 to the laptop because Love indicates that once the joystick is attached, it should be fixed via the fingers 40 or notch 41 (paras. 26-28), so the joystick is not indeed connected in a rotatable, electrical and mechanical manner during use.

E. Rejection of Claim 8 Under U.S.C. §103

This claim is rejected as being made obvious by a combination of Love and Niino, the latter of which is cited for the structure of a joystick.

For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as recited by claim 8, was not rendered obvious by the cited combination.

Independent claim 8 has been amended similar to claim 9 discussed above, to recite that the connector part, which provides electrical, mechanical and rotatable support, is the exclusive support for the pointing device relative to the data processor.

The above arguments made in relation to the applicability of Love to amended claim 9 are expressly incorporated herein by reference. Further, May fails to suggest at least the "exclusive support" recitation of claim 8, as amended.

F. Rejection of Claim 1
Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

This claim has been rejected as being made obvious by Niino, U.S. Patent No. 5,714,980 in view of May, U.S. Patent No. 4,458,114. The Examiner acknowledges, that Niino fails to teach the recited features of: (1) a leaf spring fixedly supported on a base part, (2) the spring including a distal free end engageable with an operating part, a proximal end integrally joined to a first section at a position remote from the distal free end and has a length between the distal and proximal ends for exerting a spring action, or (3) the spring having a generally U-shape length between the ends for exerting a spring action. Nevertheless, May is cited for teaching these features.

In light of the following, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as recited by amended, independent claim 1, was not rendered obvious by the cited combination. Most particularly at least, the elastic member recited by claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the structure of the cited reference.

Claim 1 recites, as an elastic member, a plate spring provided with an opening to receive a fulcrum herethrough to allow a rocking motion of an operating part on a base part, a first section extending annularly around the fulcrum and fixedly supported on the base part, and a second section extending arcuately along the first section to exert a spring action.

Niino and May, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or teach such a recited elastic member. Niino merely discloses an annular rubber 42 base part and a section extending arcuately along the annular section to exert a spring action. May discloses a plate spring 13 having a plurality of spring arms, but the arms extend from a center portion with no opening. (See the cross-sectional Figs. 1 and 7, where the center of the spring is cross-hatched to show a solid structure, Fig. 3, and Figs. 5 and 6, also showing a solid center.) Also, the plate spring of May does not have an annular section fixedly supported on the base part, along which the spring arms extend arcuately.

G. New Claims 17-23

The subject matter of claim 5, which has been noted as allowable, as discussed

above, has generally been added to the subject matter of independent claims 8 and 9, as amended herein, respectively, to form new claims 17 and 18.

New claim 19 combines claim 1 and generally the recitations of claim 7 already considered allowable by the Examiner.

New claims 20 and 21 are basically the subject matter of claims 5 and 6, and 5 and 7, combined with the subject matter of previously pending claim 9.

New claims 21 and 22 similarly are like claims 5/6 and 5/7, but combined with previously pending independent claim 8.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 7-10 and 15-23 are now in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Response, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference with the Examiner to attend to these matters.

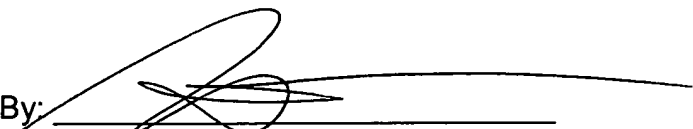
Respectfully submitted,

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